

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, August 26, 2003 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

Others: Paolo Marinelli, Amy Cohen

1. The minutes of 7/22/03 were approved unanimously

2. Crosswalk painting and signs

Broadway, Summer and Mill are done. Others are not yet done. Wet overnight weather has been a factor in the delay. The DPW sign shop is currently busy on new parking signs for the Center.

3. Town Day.

Ed Starr presented a list of items for Town Day, and committee members volunteered to bring some of them:

Table – Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Table Cover –

Two chairs – Scott Smith

Something to hang stuff on --

Paperweights (bricks/rocks) for the wind –

Tablet/pencils to record names and addresses

Notes for comments received

TAC banner and support – Elisabeth

Name tags – Elisabeth

Handouts and posted maps (Public transit usage, auto ownership, crash statistics) – Scott to prepare

Scott Smith presented draft flyers on the following topics

- What you can personally do to improve traffic safety in Arlington
- Stop signs and signals
- Crosswalks
- Four to three lane conversions

He asked for feedback on the flyers by 8/30.

He also presented maps with

- % public transit usage
- % of households with 0 vehicles
- % of households with 3 or more vehicles.

We agreed that we would need a handout on “What is the TAC?”

4. Pace Car

Ralph Elwell reported that he has sent an article to the Advocate, and plans to launch Pace Car on

Town Day. Although we will not have the bumper stickers, we will be able to ask people about their interest.

5. Jason St.

David Walkinshaw reported that the island is in place at Jason and Spring. Although we were expecting asphalt, it has granite curbs. Remaining items include:

- Yellow centerline (single line) near the island
- Permanent crosswalk warning signs at the Brantwood crossing

6. Other Crosswalks

With the opening of school, Amy Cohen asked about the painting of the Gray/Quincy and Mass/Appleton crosswalks. We agreed to send a note to DPW. A broader issue is that the crosswalk painting has not quite been in accordance with specifications (for example, we had asked for 10' thermoplastic on Mass. Ave and got 8'). We will need to meet with DPW on crosswalk specifications before the new painting contract is awarded.

7. Schlichtman letter

Paul Schlichtman, in a letter to the Board of Selectmen, had requested 4-way stops at Broadway/Rawson and Gray/Quincy. Each of these is extremely close to the home of a TAC committee member (Scott Smith lives near Broadway/Rawson and Elisabeth Carr-Jones lives near Gray/Quincy.) There was some discussion of whether that committee member should be part of the working group. On one hand, the person is familiar with the intersection; on the other hand he or she may be called upon to make a decision that is unpopular with his or her own neighbors. There is some precedent with David Walkinshaw being involved with Pleasant Street, even though he lives just off Pleasant Street. We agreed that the familiarity with the area was valuable, and it would be appropriate for these committee members to serve, provided they were not the only citizen members. Working groups were appointed as follows:

Broadway/Rawson: Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Jim McHugh, representative from DPW

Gray/Quincy: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jim McHugh, a representative from DPW, either Larry Englisher or Ed Starr. Ed will speak with Larry about his availability.

It was noted that the Mystic River path improvements may occupy much of Ron Santosousso's time. We may need other representation from DPW.

8. TAC Projects

The list of current projects includes the following:

Jason Street – David Walkinshaw (essentially done)

Pleasant Street – David Walkinshaw

Hutchinson Road – Larry Englisher

Broadway/Foster/Rawson – Scott Smith, Mike Rademacher

Gray/Fountain/Quincy – Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Right-Turn-on-Red -

Mass Ave. Corridor and Related CDBG Grant – Scott Smith

Pace Car – Ralph Elwell/Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Bylaws – Ralph Elwell/Ed Starr

Crosswalk Working Group – Larry Englisher
Traffic Measurement Baseline – Ed Starr / Jim McHugh
Crash Analysis Review/Update –
Pleasant/Mass Ave CDBG Grant – Ed Starr
Symmes Traffic – Elisabeth Carr Jones
Analysis of V2020 Traffic Survey Data –
Alternate Transportation Day –
Downing Square – Ralph Elwell

9. Right-Turn-On-Red (RTOR)

There was some discussion of the tradeoffs between driver mobility and pedestrian safety, especially if drivers don't comply with the requirement to stop before turning. Scott Smith commented that

- Quebec, Canada, with the exception of Montreal, has begun to allow RTOR
- New Zealand apparently has looked at the issue, but decided against allowing LTOR (left turn on red --- as New Zealanders drive on the left)
- An interesting approach used in Brookline is to post signs reading "Right turn on red after stop" that look like the "No turn on red signs". Does this cause drivers to stop and read the signs?
- Some cities use a supplemental plaque, so the sign reads "No turn on red when pedestrians are present."

We agreed to appoint a working group next month.

10. Bylaws

Ralph Elwell raised an issue with our current committee structure. With seven citizen members and a 3 year rotation, that may leave only 4 members available for leadership positions, a thin pool. After some discussion, we agreed that a reasonable approach would be to add one citizen member. Since geographic diversity is important, the eight citizen members would then be allocated as follows:

- One member of the Chamber of Commerce
- One School Committee Member or designee
- Two residents of Town from Precincts 1-7
- Two residents of Town from Precincts 8-14
- Two residents of Town from Precincts 15-21

This most likely means we will need one additional member from precincts 1-7. Jim McHugh also suggested that fire department representation be added. It was agreed that a danger of allowing the committee to become too large was that cliques could form.

11. News

Ralph Elwell announced that the Metropolitan Area Planning Council is planning several meetings to obtain citizen input on long term planning. We agreed that it would be appropriate for Arlington to host one of the meetings.

David Walkinshaw noted that the Redevelopment Board has East Arlington in the queue, but it may not rise to the top for another year or so.

Kevin O'Brien noted that the Community Development Block Grant funds are now available. It

is expected they will be used between July 2003 and June 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda packet including agenda, minutes, Town Day check list, TAC task list, Paul Schlichtman's letter and bylaws issue – from Ed Starr

Draft town day flyers, and sketch of Rawson/Broadway and Rawson/Warren – from Scott Smith

List of intersections with no turn on red signs, list of through streets, laws pertaining to RTOR – from Jim McHugh.

Walking in Arlington Safety Tips for Pedestrians and Drivers – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones